



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

June 17, 2009, 5:00 PM

Rhode Island: 94 confirmed positive cases, 23 hospitalized to date, 1 death
National Report: CDC reports 52 states (including DC) with 17,855 confirmed and probable cases, 45 deaths
International Report: WHO reports 35,928 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection worldwide, 163 deaths

Reminder: The partner briefing will be distributed on a weekly basis.

- Today, HEALTH announced the first death in Rhode Island due to H1N1. Please see the press release on the Department's home page – <http://www.health.ri.gov>
- H1N1 (swine) flu continues to spread both locally and nationally and is now widespread in Rhode Island due to the increase in sporadic cases and outbreak clusters throughout all five counties in Rhode Island. The majority of outbreak clusters have occurred in schools.
- Most Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Rhode Island has been mild. There is a higher hospitalization rate with H1N1 infections compared to seasonal flu. Nationally, risk factors for hospitalization of patients with ILI are asthma, COPD, diabetes, immunosuppression, cardiovascular disease, pregnancy, and other special healthcare needs.
- **Guidance for Schools:**
 - Remind students and staff with ILI that they should not come back to school for 7 days after symptoms begin or 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, **whichever is longer**.
 - HEALTH does not recommend the closure of schools to prevent the spread of H1N1.
 - If the absenteeism rate among students and staff prohibits a school from functioning effectively, school districts may consider closure as an option.
 - See Health Advisory to All Schools on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/SchoolAdvisory061509.pdf>
- **Guidance for Public Settings (including Graduation Ceremonies):**
 - Follow general prevention measures (listed below).
 - If you are not ill, limit personal contact such as hugging and handshaking while in public.
 - Event organizers should make hand-washing stations available.
 - See Mass Gatherings Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/MassGatherings051109%20.pdf>
- **Guidance for Summer Camps:**
 - All staff and campers should be screened upon arrival at camp.
 - Camp organizers should remind staff and campers to use good hygiene practices consistently.
 - Staff should be given a brief training on monitoring campers and recognizing flu-like symptoms.
 - See Summer Camp Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/SummerCampGuidance060109.pdf>
- **General Prevention Measures:**
 - If you are ill with ILI (fever plus cough or sore throat), call your doctor and stay home for 7 days after symptoms begin or 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, **whichever is longer**.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand gel.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- HEALTH continues to request that clusters or outbreaks of influenza-like-illness in congregate settings (i.e. schools, camps, daycares, etc.), group residences, nursing homes and assisted living facilities be reported to the HEALTH Center for Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases at 401.222.2577 (8:30am-4:30pm) or 401.272.5952 (4:30pm-8:30am).
- HEALTH continues to post advisories and clinical guidance on the H1N1 website. New postings include date posted.

For further information go to:

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>